

THE 1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN THE WESTERN STATES

A radio talk by C. C. Conser, Assistant Director of the Western Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour Thursday, December 17, 1936, the National Broadcasting Company and a network of associated radio stations.

Today I want to talk with you about the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1937 as it applies to the Western Region.

Farmers of this Region recommended more emphasis on soil-building for 1937, and the program follows that recommendation as far as possible.

It does this mainly through what we call the "six and three" plan. I want to explain briefly how the "six and three" plan will apply to you if you are a typical farmer in the Western Region.

In 1937 you will be able to earn payments for carrying out soil-building practices as you could this year, but you can do more of them and earn more by doing so.

Next year, just as this year, the principal payment you can earn will be for taking land out of crops that tear down the land. We have more acres in those crops than is good for either the land or the pocketbook.

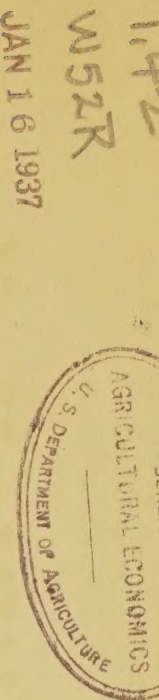
That principal payment is known as the diversion payment, and you can earn it by diverting as much as 15 percent of your general soil-depleting base acreage.

The national average payment for diversion in 1937 will be \$6 an acre. This is the six part of the six and three plan. If your land is more productive than the average, your diversion payment will be more per acre; and if it is less productive, the payment will be less. The rate per acre will depend upon the productivity of your farm as it did in 1936.

Now for the three part of the six and three plan. The three part is in connection with the soil-building allowance for your farm. As you no doubt recall from the 1936 program, the soil-building allowance is the amount you can earn on the farm for soil-building practices. More soil-building practices were recommended for 1937, so it seemed logical to encourage these practices by increasing the soil-building allowance. So for 1937 the program in the Western Region pays less for diversion and more for practice payments. Here is how it is done:

Each acre you divert for the six payment, gives you the right to earn \$3 additional for soil-building practices. This \$3 for each acre is simply added to the soil-building allowance and the money is there for the farmer to earn by soil-building practices. This is the three part of the plan.

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This payment, too, will depend upon the productivity of your farm. The \$3 is a national average.

This really means that, on farms whose productivity is the same as the United States average, a man can earn \$9 an acre for each acre he diverts from his soil-depleting base.

Of course, the \$3 per acre which goes into your soil-building allowance is only part of the general soil-building allowance for your farm. That general allowance will be much the same as last year. In most cases it will be computed by multiplying your normal soil-conserving acreage, plus the acreage you divert, by \$1. On small farms it will be figured on the basis of the cropland on the farm. Also there are certain additions for land in truck crops, in orchards, and certain other classifications.

There are two principal reasons why the six and three plan was adopted in the Western Region. First, there is only a limited supply of seed of soil-conserving crops adapted to the West. If western farmers had to seed soil-conserving crops on every acre diverted, many would have to pay very high prices for seed in order to comply, or they would be unable to earn diversion payments. Secondly, the weather in many western states won't let you establish a good stand of soil-conserving crops every year. However, many practices are as truly soil-conserving as a soil-conserving crop, and farmers in the Western Region may substitute certain of these practices if they are unable to put the land in soil-conserving crops.

The increased emphasis on soil-building practices means an expansion of the group of soil-building practices to meet the new needs. Practices in 1937 will include the seeding of soil-conserving crops, terracing, strip fallowing, tree planting, and other things. Each state will have its own approved practices.

I know you'll want more information about these new features in the program. For that you should rely upon community meetings which will be held soon after the first of the year, and upon detailed information which your community and county committeemen and your county agent will have.

What I have said today applies in general to the majority of farms. But among four million farms there are certain to be numerous exceptions. If your farm is one of these, then again, your local leaders will have the information for you.

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